

Tom Thumb

His Life and Death.

herein is declared many marvelous Acts of
ianhood full of wonder and strange meriment,
Which little Knight lived in King Arthur's time, and
famous in the Court of Great Britain;



rinted for F. Coles. J. Wright. T. Vere.
and William Gilbertson:





Of the Life and Death of Tom Thumb.

Of the Birth, Name, and bringing up of
Tom Thumb, with the merry pranks
that he did in his childhood.

In Arthurs Court Tom Thumb did live,
a man of mickle might,,
The best of all the Table round,
and eke a doughty knight ;
His stature but as much in height,
as quarter of a span,
Then think you not this little knight
was prob'd a valiant man.

His Father was a plow-man plain,
his mother milkt the Cow,
But yet a way to get a son,
these couple know not how :
Untill such time the good old man
to learned Merlin goes,
And there to him in deep desres,
in secret manner holds.

Tom Thumb.

How in his heart he wist to have
a child in time to come
To be his heir, though it might be
no bigger then his Thumb
Of which old Merlin was foretold,
that he his wifh shoulde have,
And so his Son of stature small,
the Charmer to him gave.

No blood nor stones in him shoulde be,
In shape and being such,
That man shoulde hear him speake, but not
his wondering shadowe touch :
But so unseen to go to come,
whereas it pleas' o him will,
Beget and born in half an hour,
to fit his Fathers will.

And in four minutes grew so fast,
that he became so tall.
As was the plowmans Thumb in height,
and so they did him call
Tom Thumb, the whiche the Fairy Queen
there gave him to his name,
Who with her Train of Goblins grim
unto his Christening came.

Wilberforce

Tom hūmb.

Wherat he cloath'd him richly brave,
in garmentes fine and fair,
which lasted him for many years,
In seemly sort to wear:
His Hat made of an Oken Leaf,
His Shirt a Spiders web,
Both light and soft for those his Limbs,
that were so smally byed.

His Hose and Doublet Thistle-down,
together weav'd full fine,
His Stockins of an Apple green,
made of the outward Rhyne
His Garters were two little bastes
pul'd from his mothers eye,
His Hose and Shooes a Mouses skin,
there tan'd most curiously.

Thus like a valiant Gallant he
adventured forth to go
With other Children in the streets,
his pretty tricks to shew:
Wher he sor Counters, Pins and Poppets
and Cherrystones did play,
Till he amongst those gamesters young
had lost his Stock away,

¶

Tom Thumb.

Yet could he soon renew the same,
When as most nimblly he
Would dive into the Cherry-bage,
And there a taker be
Unseen or felt of any one,
Untill a Scholar shew
This nimble youth into a Box,
Whereto his pins he put.

Of whom to have eng'd, he took
(in mirth and pleasant game)
Black Pots and Glasses which he hung
Upon a bright Sun-beam:
The other Boxes to do the like,
In pieces broke them quite,
For which they were most soundly whipt
Whereto he caught out-right.

And so Tom Thumb restrained was
From these his sports and play,
And by his mother after that
Compel'd at home to stay:
Whereas about a Christmas time,
His Father a Hog had kill'd,
And Tom to see the puddings made,
Fear'd that they should be spild.

HOW

Tom Thum mbo.



How Tom Thumb fell into the Pudding
hole, and of his escape out of the
Tinkers Budget.

H E sat upon the Pudding-hole,
the Candle for to hold,

A 4

Or

Tom Thumb.

Of which there is unto this day
a pretty pastime told,
For Tom fell in, and could not be
for ever after found,
For in the Blood and Batter he
was strangely lost and drowned.

Where searching long but all in vain,
his mother after that
Into a pudding thrust her Sonne
in stead of minced fat :
Which Pudding of the largest size,
into the Kettle thrown,
Made all the rest to flye thereout,
as with a whirlewind blown.

For so it tumbled up and down
Within the liquor there,
As if the Devil had been boyl'd,
such was his mothers scar :
That up she took the Pudding straight,
and gave it at the boze
Unto a Tinker which from thence
in his black Budget boze.

But as the Tinker climb'd o a stile,
he chanc'd to let a Crack,

¶ 5'v

Tom Thumb.

Now gip old knave out cry'd Tom Thumb
there hanging at his back.
At which the Tinker gan to run,
and would no longer stay,
But cast both Bag and Pudding down,
and thence hym fast away.

From which Tom Thumb got loose at last
and home return'd again,
Where he from following dangers long,
in safety did remain :
Untill such time his mother went
a milking of her kine;
Where Tom unto a Thistle fast,
he linked with a twine.

How Tom Thumb was tyed to a thistle,
and how his Mothers Cow eat him up,
with his strange deliverance out
of the Cows belly.

A Thread that held him to the same,
As for fear the blustering wind
Should blow him thence, that so she might
her Son in safety find :
But mark the hap a Cow came by,
and rip the thistle eas,

Wooze

Tom Thumbe.

Poor Tom withall ('that as a Dock)
has made the red Cowes meat.

Who being miss his mother went
him calling every where,
where art thou Tom, where art thou Tom?
(quoth he) here mother dears,
Within the red Cowes belly here,
your Son is swalloured up,
The which into her woful heart
most fearfull dolour put.

Meant while the Cow was troubled much
in this her tumbling womb,
And could not rest untill that she
had backward cast Tom Thumbe:
Who all besmeared as he was,
his mother took him up,
To bear him thence, the which poor Lad
he in her pocket put.

Now after this in sovng time,
his Father would him have
Into the Field to drise his Plow
and therewithall him gave
A whip made of a Barly straw,
to drise the Cattle on:

Where

Tom Thumb.
Where in succot'a lampre in soem,
poze Tom was lost and gone.

How Tom Thumb was carried away by a
Raven, and how he was swallowed up
by a Giant; with other strange
accidents that befell him.



Now

Tom Thumb.

NOT by a Raven of great Strength,
away he thence was born,
And carried in the Carrions beak,
Even like a grain of Corn,
Unto a Giants Castle top,
in which he let him fall,
Where soon the Gaint swallowed up
his body cloathes and all.

But in his belly did Tom Thumb
so great a trumpling make,
That neither day nor night he could
the smallest quiet take,
Till the Gaint had him spew'd
three miles into the Sea,
Whereas a fish soone took him up,
and bore him thence away,

Which lusty Fish was after caught,
and to King Arthur sent,
Where Tom was found & made his Dwarf
Whereas his dayes he spent
Long time in lively Jollity,
belov'd of all the Court,
And none like Tom was then esteem'd
ameng the Noble sort,

Amongst

Tom Thumb.

Amongst his deeds of Courtship done,
his Highnesse did command
That he shoule dance a Galliard brabe
upon the Queens left hand .
The which he did and soz the same
the King his Sigrant gave,
which Tom about his midle wroze
long time a Girles brabe.



Tom Thumb.



Now after this the King would not
abroad for pleasure goe;
But still Tom Thumb must ride with him,
plac'd on his Saddle-bow.
Where on a time when as it rain'd,
Tom Thumb most nimblly crept
Into a button-hole, where he
within his bosome kept.

End

Tom Thumb.

And being near his Highness heatt,
he crav'd a wealthie bon,
A liberall gift, the which the King
commanded to be done :
For to relife his Fathet's wants,
and mothers being old,
which was as much of silver copt
as well his arms could hold.]

And so alway goes lassp Tom
with thre pence on his back,
A heaþy burden which might make
his weareted limbs to crack.
So travelling two dayes and nighte,
with laboor and great pain,
He came into the house wheras
his parents do remain.

Whch was but halfe a mile in space
from good king Arthurs Court,
The which in eight and forty houres
he went in weary sort:
But coming to his Fathers doze,
he ther's such entrance had,
As made his parents both rejoyce,
and he therat was glad,

His

Tom Thumb.

His Mother in an Apron took
her gentle Sonne in bosome,
And by the fireside within
a walnutt shell him plac't,
whereas they scalded him three dayes
upon a Hazell Nut,
whereon he ryoted so long,
he them to charges put.

And therupon grew wondrous sick,
through eating too much meat,
which was sufficient for a mouth
for this great man to eat :
But now his busynesse call'd him forth
King Arthurs Court to see,
whereat no longer from the same
he could a stranger be.

But a few small Ap'ill drops
which settled in the way,
His long and weary Journey forth
did hinder and so say,
Unskill his carefull Father took
a Birding Trunk in spost,
And with one blast blew this his Son
into King Arthurs Court,

Of

Tom Thumb.



Of Tom Thumbs running a Tilt, with divers other Knightly exercises by him performed.

No to be with Tills and Turnaments,
was entertained so,

W

That

Tom Thumb.

**That all the rest of Arthurs Knights
do him much pleasure shew :
And god Sir Lancelot of Lake,
Sir Tristram and Sir Guy,
Yet none compar'd with brave T. Thumb
for Knightly Chivalry.**

**In honour of which noble day,
and for his Ladies sake,
A challenge in King Arthurs Court,
Tom Thum did bravely make :
Gainst whom these noble Knights did run,
Sir Chinon and the rest,
But still Tom Thumb with all his might
did bear away the best.**

**At last Sir Lancelot of the Lake,
in manly sort came in,
And with this stout and hardy Knight,
a battell did begin,
Which made the Courtiers all agast,
for there that valiant man,
Through Lancelots stroke before them all,
in nimble manner ran,**

**On a horse and all with spear and shield,
as sharply he was seen.**

But

Tom Thumb.

34

But onely by King Arthurs self
and his admited Queen :
Who from her finger took a Ring,
through which Tom Thumb made way,
Not touching it in nimble sorte,
as it had been in play.

He likewise cleft the smalleſt hair
from the faire Ladys head,
Not hurting her, whose even hand
him laſting honours bred,
Such were his deedes and noble acts,
In Arthurs Court there shewen,
As like in all the world besides
Was hardly ſeen or known.

How Tom Thumb did take his fickneſſe,
and of his death and buriall.

Now at these ſports he told himſelfe,
that he a fickneſſe took,
Through which all manly exercife,
he careleſly forſook :
Where lying on his bed ſore ſick,
King Arthurs Doctors came,
With cuaning ſkill by Phyſicks Art,
to eafe and cure the ſame.

Tom Thumb.



He being so slender and small,
this cunning Doctor took
A fine prospectiue glasse, with which
he did in secret look
Into his body down,
and therin saw that Death
Stand ready in his wasted gyts,
to seize his vitall breath.

¶

Tom Thumb.

His Arms and Legs consum'd as small
as was a Spiders web,
Through which his dying hours grew on,
for all his Limbs grew dead:
His face no bigger then an Ants,
which hardly could be seen;
The losse of which renowned Knight
much griev'd the King and Queen.

And so with Peace and Quietness
he left the earth below,
And up into the Fairy Land
his Ghost did fading go:
Whereas the Fairy Queen receiv'd
with happy mourning cheere,
The body of this valiant knight,
whom she esteem'd so deare.

For with her dancing Nymphs in green,
she fetcht him from his bed,
With musick and sweet melody;
so soon as life was fled:
For whom King Arthur and his Knights
full forty daies did mourn,
And in remembrance of his name
that was so strangely born.

He

Tom Thumb.

He built a Tomb of Marble gray,
and year by year did come
To celebrate the mournfull day,
and buriall of Tom Thumb :
Whose fame lives here in England still,
amongst the Country sort,
Of whom our wives and children small,
tell tales of pleasant sport.

FINIS.

TOMA THUMBS FATHER.



Tom Thumbs Mother.



